



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

jects of their "beings end, and aim," and that they may carelessly view

....."The beauteous mind,  
For virtue, bliss, eternity design'd,"

as an object not worthy of attention and improvement. They may also be afraid to study, lest they should be ridiculed by some ignorant coxcomb, who might say,

"Banish, my fair, those studious looks,  
Oh! what should beauty learn from crabbed books;  
Sweetly to speak, and sweetly smile, be thine,  
Beware, nor change that dimple to a line!"

After contemplating the frivolity of such characters, and observing all the time occupied in useless pursuits, while the mind is left uncultivated, a man of sense and intelligence may be excused, if he hastily form an unfavourable opinion of females. He may justly exclaim,

....."Are these your joys?  
These all your cares?"

But let him not, for the folly of a few individuals, condemn the whole sex; let him reflect on all the fops and coxcombs of his acquaintance, and he will find, that frivolity and ignorance are not confined to one sex.

When females take care to improve their minds, they are rational, intelligent beings. Many of them are possessed of true taste, vivid imaginations, solid sense, fixed principles, and all the valuable qualities which adorn human nature. The cultivation of their minds does not prevent them from being useful in domestic life; as learning and good sense are not incompatible with the most minute attention to all the peculiar duties, as well as all the elegant accomplishments which belong to the female character.

If it were necessary to prove, that

females are capable of the highest attainments, I could adduce a number of highly respectable names; but I shall only refer any person who may have doubts on this subject, to the various modern publications of females, whose talents have been directed to the noble object of instructing and improving mankind.

When a female has once entered on the paths of knowledge, with a fixed resolution of improving herself, she will be fully equal in sense and intelligence to any of the other sex, who have had the same opportunities of instruction; but, unfortunately, knowledge has been so much decried, and ideas of inferiority so strongly impressed on the minds of females, that they have been too frequently content to remain in ignorance. It is ungenerous, first to enslave the mind, and then to condemn females for being triflers.

As man cannot degrade the female sex, without degrading the whole human race, and as no talent or virtue is exclusively masculine, or no fault or folly exclusively feminine, let not the contest in future be, which sex shall be the most ignorant, but which shall be the most enlightened.

CORNELIA.

---

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

---

ON MODERN GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY.

AMONG the discoveries of the last fifty years, Geography and Topography appear to have come in for a full portion. The former has been particularly enriched by the discoveries of Wallis, Cook, La Perouse, and Vancouver; and in our list of travellers, Bruce, Valliant, Barrow, and the unfortunate Mungo Park, have added considerably to

our stock of information, respecting the countries they have traversed.

Our domestic topography has also received considerable additions, within the above period, especially in Great Britain; in England, by numerous county and parish histories; and in Scotland, by Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Survey, a work which presents a more comprehensive view of that country than has yet been done of any other.

Ireland has also received some notice, lately more than usual by the occasional publication of Statistical Surveys of its counties; yet it were desirable that their authors would subjoin a fuller sketch of their histories and antiquities, which would doubtless add much to their value, relieving the reader from the dryness inseparable from such surveys.

Lately, a work on the plan just noticed made its appearance, entitled the "History and Antiquities of the County of the Town of Carrickfergus;" to which a Statistical Survey was annexed. In it was given an account of the fishery of Carrickfergus bay, and a correct list of the fish caught, or seen there, with their Linnean and local names; also some original notices respecting their habits; yet, strange to tell, though this work was printed by subscription, the price only five shillings, and containing much interesting to the naturalist and antiquarian, the sale was so limited, that the author, I am informed, only cleared expences!

The above fact will however appear less surprising when we consider how little the Irish public seem interested to obtain a knowledge of their country, especially from native productions; as in fact they are much more inclined to purchase the flimsy compilations of British book-makers, who have generally never seen the country which they at-

tempt to describe, *except upon paper*. In proof of this assertion I shall notice two publications which have lately made their appearance in London, from which the reader will be enabled to form a just estimate of their merits.

The first is a neat quarto volume, entitled "A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," printed and published in London, in 1810, written by Nicholas Carlisles, Fellow and Secretary to the London Society of Antiquaries. In this work the learned author mentions, repeatedly, a province of Ireland, called Armagh, which it is probable we would be at some loss to find out, did he not inform us of the towns in it, among which is Larne, County Antrim! Carrickfergus castle he describes as no longer garrisoned; although for many years past, it has had a garrison composed of artillery as well as infantry. Lord Donegall he represents as the patron of the corporation of Carrickfergus, which error is equally gross as the last, the present Burgess serving in parliament having been twice elected by the independent interest, in opposition to Edward May, esq.; now the Rev. Edward May, brother-in-law to the Marquis of Donegall.

The next work is a Geography, two volumes large quarto, by John Smith, L.L.D. entitled "Smith's Modern Geography," in which the author has presented us with the following unaccountable blunders, in the article Ireland; and perhaps there may be other mistakes, as my review was a very cursory one.

Antrim town, he says, is a very ancient borough, whose mayor was once admiral of a considerable extent of coast, as well in Down as the County of Antrim; and that the corporation enjoyed the custom of all vessels within its jurisdiction; he also adds, it is a populous place,

with a good roadstead and peir. Now Antrim was not created a borough until 1665 ; it never had a mayor, nor even a chief magistrate ; it never enjoyed the customs of any vessels whatsoever, nor possessed jurisdiction over any coast ; it scarcely contains 2000 inhabitants ; it is not a sea-port ; and its roadstead and peir on Lough Neagh, if such they may be called, hardly afford shelter for a fishing boat ! Ballycastle he represents to have glass-works, where none now exist, that manufacture having been long discontinued there. The harbour of Bangor, County of Down, he says is about three miles from the town, where, in fact, it is at it. Carrickfergus, he says, is a considerable place, with a linen-hall ; yet Carrickfergus is a small town, and never had a linen hall !

Many other things are equally erroneous ; for instance, he informs us, that the river Bann rises in the *Heveagh* mountains, though it is well known there are no mountains of that name in Ireland. Granite, we are told, is found five miles north of Belfast, though it is notorious no such stone is found in that country ; and the plant tormentil he represents as being used as a substitute for oak bark, in tanning, although no plants whatever are used here in that business. To complete the list of errors, he says the rebellion of 1798 broke out on the 23d March, instead of the 23d May ; and that the magpie is not found in Ireland, though it is a *very* common bird.—In the name of all that's marvellous, where did this learned Doctor collect such extraordinary information !!!

Such are the faithful accounts published in London of this country ; and such, puffed off by reviewers, equally ignorant of its real state, find a place in the library of credulous John Bull ; and are also im-

ported here, and, strange, "passing strange," bought at a high price, with considerable avidity. It is, however, to be wished that some author, already distinguished as an impartial historian, would give us the ancient and present state of Ireland ; such a work being highly a desideratum in modern literature.

M.S.

Antrim, August 29th, 1812.

For the *Belfast Monthly Magazine*.

#### ON THE ADVANTAGES OF A HABIT OF REFLECTION.

FOR the improvement of the mind, and the full development of its faculties, nothing is more indispensably necessary than a habit of reflection. Our outward senses will prove of very little service, in the acquirement of useful and lasting knowledge, and indeed we may almost as well be without them, if we do not reflect much, and patiently, on the information they convey.

The food we take will not nourish the frame, until it be acted upon, and animalized by the proper organs ; and, in like manner, the information we receive, and the new ideas we acquire, can never become our own, till we have digested and assimilated them to the mind, by the no less necessary process of reflection.

Solitude and silence have been sought by the wise of all ages ; in the midst thereof, they conversed with their own hearts, and putting aside the delusions of the world, by profound meditation they ennobled their souls, communed in secret with the Deity, and received a minute portion of his eternal wisdom. Their discourses, the result of deep and long continued contemplation, impressed their hearers with the idea that they were inspired, and their